SOP No: ATT 79

SUBJECT: Treating a common external parasite of sheep to alleviate suffering and prevent death

DATE: 18.02.2015

REASON FOR USE: The purpose of this procedure is to treat sheep infected by fly strike by removing maggots and preventing re-infection. Untreated sheep experience very severe stress and are likely to die. Sheep may be struck on the body, breach or belly region.

POLICY: Minimum of one operator required
Demonstrator: competence in this procedure
Students: competence in handling sheep (see SOP ATT 081 Yarding, catching and handling sheep), familiarity with sheep anatomy.

PRECAUTIONS:
- Wear sturdy footwear, use sun protection when outside
- Sheep should be handled quietly before, during and after the procedure
- Sheep should not be overcrowded in yards
- Specific personal risk issues to be aware of include: using correct positions and handling to avoid back strain, using care to avoid cuts from the shears
- Be aware of the animal’s reaction to the procedure (crush injuries, kicking).
- Wash hands and exposed body parts thoroughly with soap and water after handling animals.

EQUIPMENT: Yards, sheep handler.

PROCEDURE:
1. Preparation: select, sharpen and clean appropriate equipment to remove the wool from the infected site (e.g. hand shears)
2. Select the appropriate treatment for the wound site to kill maggots and prevent re-infection. Note the withholding period on the chemicals to be used.
3. If necessary to conform to withholding period requirements or for another management
reason, identify the treated sheep, e.g. by making
a raddle (chalk) mark on the nose or fleece.
4. On completion of the procedure observe the
animal for signs of excessive distress and treat as
required.
5. After finishing, clean the equipment.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

DATE ISSUED:

[Signature]
CHAIR OF AEC

REFERENCES